

III. Remarks

Claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 14, and 15 have been cancelled; claims 3, 11, and 16 have been amended to place them in independent form; and dependent claims 4-8, 12, 13, and 17-21 have been amended to change their dependency.

At page 3 of the Office Action, the examiner indicated that claims 3, 11, 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Hence claims 3, 11, and 16 have been amended to include all of the limitations of their corresponding base claims and all intervening claims.

In view of the foregoing it is submitted that independent claims 3, 11, and 16, as well as their corresponding dependent claims 4-8, 12, 13, and 17-21, are in condition for allowance and a formal notice thereof is requested.

The examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

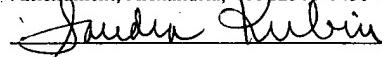


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Mail Stop Amendment, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on February 2, 2006



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